

Meadowlands Agency Agrees To Ambitious Solar Power Deal

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The Meadowlands Commission will be the first state agency to get half of its power from solar panels, under a plan unveiled Wednesday.

The commission approved buying power from the multinational energy company Epuron in exchange for having it build and maintain a large collection of solar panels on the agency's Lyndhurst campus.

The commission still has to negotiate a price for the 20-year contract, but officials expect to save \$2.4 million in energy costs over the course of the deal.

Once the panels are installed, the commission's three buildings will use 800,000 kilowatt hours of electricity from conventional sources, down from 1.6 million kilowatt hours.

The panels will be facing south on metal frames anchored into the ground along a roadway west of the Lyndhurst campus. They will take up the equivalent of 1.7 acres.

"To our knowledge this would be the largest government array in New Jersey by size and percentage of power consumption," said agency spokesman Chris Gale.

Solar panels will also be installed on the roof of The Meadowlands Center for Environmental and Scientific Education, which is under construction. It is due to open in October.